

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections -35 U.S.C. § 103

The Office Action rejected claims 1, 9, 10, and 13 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over McLeod in view of Dallas.

While Applicant does not acquiesce in the rejection, to facilitate prosecution of the present application, claims 1 and 9 have been amended to incorporate certain subject matter of claim 18, which has been allowed. Claim 10 is cancelled as redundant in view of the amendment to claim 9. The rejection of claims 1, 9 and 10 is thereby traversed.

Claim 11 is amended to delete redundant subject matter in view of the amendments made to claim 9.

Claims 13 and 16 are cancelled and similar subject matter thereof incorporated into claim 17, deemed allowable if rewritten in independent form. The rejection of claim 13 is thereby traversed.

Claim 14 is amended to depend from amended claim 17.

The Office Action rejected claims 2, 4, 12 and 16 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over McLeod in view of Dallas and Townsend. In view of the amendments made to claims 1, 9 the rejection of claims 2, 4, and 12 is traversed. As noted above, claim 16 is cancelled. The rejection of claim 16 is thereby traversed.

The Office Action rejected claim 5 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over McLeod in view of Dallas, Townsend and Thrupp. In view of the amendments made to claim 1, the rejection of claim 5 is traversed.

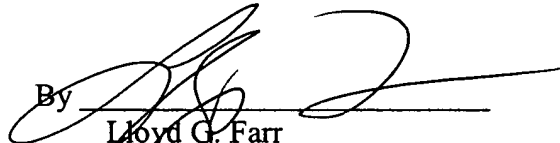
The Office Action rejected claims 14 and 15 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over McLeod in view of Dallas and Thrupp. In view of the amendments made to claims 14 and 17, the rejection of claims 14 and 15 is likewise traversed.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant gratefully acknowledges the allowance of claims 18-20.

In view of the amendments made to claims 1, 9, 11, 14 and 17 and the cancellation of claims 10, 13 and 16, this application is now considered to be in a condition for immediate allowance. Favourable reconsideration and early issuance of a Notice of Allowance is therefore requested.

Respectfully submitted,
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